United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry | 180 Canfield Street Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

**File** 3400 **Date: 4th Jan 2002**
**Route To:**
**Subject:** **Dogwood Anthracnose monitoring plots**

**To:** Bob White

Season's Greetings Bob,

I am sending this letter both by snail mail and in electronic format. Having it in electronic format you will be able to cut and paste it to any monitoring report you might be preparing. The hard copy version will include copies of plot sheets and maps.

One map I would like to share with you is the National Dogwood Anthracnose map (Ashville FHP, 20th Mar 2000), which shows the disease as being only present in 2 of the 4 ANF counties. (McKean & Warren). As our DA monitoring plots are in Forest Co and I have confirmed, microscopically, the presence of the disease in 3 of 4 plots, I will now add this county to the disease distribution map.

When I established the plots in 1999 I did not detect any DA and in 2000 all I saw were a few rare spots on a few leaves. When I describe them as rare spots I'm talking about 2 or 3 spots on 3 or 4 leaves out of all of the leaves I could easily observe on each tree. As I was not convinced that these were indeed DA caused spots, I did not attempt any culturing in 2000. By 2001 typical DA leaf spots were developing and microscopic examination revealed conidia being produced from every single symptomatic leaf I examined.

In summary: DA was not detected in 1999. Its presence was suspected in 2000 and microscopically confirmed in 2001. The disease was present in 3 of 4 plots and effecting 10 out of the 40 trees being monitored. This constitutes my first observation of this disease in Forest Co. PA. This should not be taken to mean that any of the dogwoods are about to die, any time soon. These trees are located in Jamison Run, an area that appears to have been subjected to both a wild fire and severe storm damage. In 1999 many of the trees had extensive grape vines draped over their crowns. Grape vines that had once been growing in the crowns of the damaged overstory. I conclude, at this point in time the greatest threats to these trees are stresses other than DA. My 1999 plot sheets report that several of the trees had cankers and water sprouts, all of which I was willing to attribute to damaging agents other than DA. I will continue monitoring the trees in 2002 and will survey some areas in Elk Co.

Martin MacKenzie
Foreast Pathologist
FHP

Enclosure
CC J. Knighten
CC Nolan Hess